

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 9, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. The Clinton House, Niagara Falls. Aug. 9th 1893. My dear Alec:

I wrote the accompanying letter to Papa last night after my return from Rochester. I am not sure how it would sound to Papa, things written always have a way of sounding to the reader entirely differently from what they do to the writer, and I would sooner lose a great deal of money than have Papa and Mamma question my love and desire to stand by Grace and Charlie in their time of trouble. So I do not send the letter to Papa, but to you as it says about what I feel.

There were several things you told me in Rochester which troubled me greatly, and which in spite of your willingness to turn over the Bonds put the whole matter of lending the Bonds in a new light. For one thing I don't like lending the Bonds for six months. Congress isn't a panacea for all evils and we cannot be sure that things may not go from bad to worse, and we may need the currency obtainable on those bonds ourselves. Then again, this is a time for investment, is it right to lock up the only piece of property against which we can borrow money. I want to be sure that you personally can't get money from a Natl. Bank on your Bonds. Altogether I am uneasy, and by no means inclined to place implicit confidence in Charlie's judgement as to what is best for us to do. Of course Charlie would not advise us to do ought he did not think for our best interests, but he is in the thick of the fight and is not an impartial judge. Then if you decide to lend the bonds don't you get something for doing so? We wouldn't charge Charlie anything if he were in trouble, but I think the Trust Company ought to pay us well. There is a high premium on cash. Charlie has looked after himself, and he is all right, now let us look after ourselves and see that we are all right before being generous. Don't sell those bank stocks at too great

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a sacrifice. Oh dear, I wish I had gone down with you, and yet I did hate the idea of going down and playing invalid. If I had expected to be very sick I would have gone of course, when I am sick I want my mother, and when I am well I want to be with her and to run after her all the time, but to go down, and be just resting, lying around and being waited on, I couldn't do it. I am better today and if I am all right I will come down tomorrow perhaps. I sent the children off when I expected to go down today and it cost such lots here and they wanted to go. Dear Alec goodbye, save Charlie if you can, but save us first! How selfish this sounds, but again I repeat Charlie is safe, in no danger, therefore don't risk Beinn Bhreagh for the Am. Security.

Lovingly, Mabel.